

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Microcopy No. 619

**LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
(MAIN SERIES)**

1861-1870

Roll 473

1866

2-186 G



**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

Washington: 1965

INTRODUCTION

On the 828 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced unbound letters, with their enclosures, that were received by the Adjutant General during the period 1861-70. They are a part of Record Group 94, Records of The Adjutant General's Office.

On June 16, 1775, the Continental Congress resolved that there should be an Adjutant General of the Continental Army and on the following day selected Horatio Gates for the position. Although there have been numerous organizational and functional changes and some variations in rank and title, an Adjutant General has been continuously in office since that date.

During the 1860's the Adjutant General's Department was the department of records, orders, and correspondence of the Army and the militia. Its major duties included recording, authenticating, and communicating to troops and individuals in the military service all orders, instructions, and regulations issued by the Secretary of War; preparing and distributing commissions and military decorations; managing the recruiting service; and consolidating the general returns of the Army.

The letters and enclosures reproduced in this microcopy were received from officers and enlisted men of the Army, the Secretary of War, the President, officials of other Government departments, Members of Congress, Governors of States and Territories, private persons, and business firms. They relate to such topics as the appointment, recruitment, transfer, pay, promotion, leave, discharge, and other personnel actions affecting officers and enlisted men of the Army; orders, regulations, and other issuances of the War Department; military expeditions and campaigns; military installations and organizations; and Indian affairs. The letters encompass the years from 1861 to 1870, and are a part of the largest series of letters received by the Adjutant General's Office. The entire series extends from 1822 to 1889.

According to the recordkeeping practice of the time, letters received were entered in registers alphabetically by the initial letter of the surname or office of the writer and thereunder chronologically by date of receipt. The letters are arranged to correspond with the arrangement of entries in the registers and are numbered in a separate sequence under each letter of the alphabet for each year. The letters received are endorsed on the back or on a separate cover sheet with the name of the writer, the date of writing, the place of writing, the purpose of the contents, the date received, and the file number assigned in the register. The file designation consists of the number, the initial letter of the correspondent's name or office, and the year the letter was received.

Because the letters were numbered and entered in the registers according to the dates of receipt rather than the dates of writing,

and because there often was a considerable lapse of time between the date of writing and the receipt of a letter in the Adjutant General's Office, there is some overlapping of dates covered by the registers. This overlapping is reflected in the filing arrangement of the letters.

Some of the letters bear file citations other than those of the Adjutant General's Office. These citations indicate that at one time or another the letters had been filed in some other office. A few letters received and related papers, for one reason or another, were not entered in the registers or numbered. They are arranged by initial letter of the name of the writer or the office and are filed by year at the end of the registered letters bearing the same initial letters. If the name of the writer is not known or cannot be identified the letter is usually filed at the end of all the letters for the year in which it was written; in a few instances it is filed by initial letter of the subject. Occasionally drafts of orders, replies to letters received, and related working papers were filed with the letters received to which they relate.

There are other variations in the arrangement pattern. (1) Some years after the original filing of these letters the Adjutant General's Office attempted to bring together files relating to certain subjects, which resulted in "consolidated files." For the 1861-70 period, these "consolidations" generally varied in quantity from two to several thousand papers. Cross-reference slips appear throughout the file and indicate the file number under which the letters were consolidated. Following these introductory remarks is a list of 120 of the more significant consolidations and large files and of the rolls on which they have been reproduced. (2) Beginning in 1866 the annual reports of War Department bureaus and geographical commands are filed together at the end of the letters for each year. (3) In some instances errors were made by clerks when the letters were entered in the registers; sometimes registry numbers were omitted and at other times numbers were repeated. Where the numbers are repeated, the Adjutant General's Office added " $\frac{1}{2}$ " to the number of the second letter to distinguish it from the first one bearing the same number. Where this has not been done, the National Archives has added, in brackets, "No. 1" and "No. 2" to the file designation.

Some of the documents originally filed in this series are no longer in the series, others are incomplete, and some enclosures have been separated from their transmittal letters. Some of the registered communications were referred to other offices or agencies and eventually became incorporated in the files of those agencies. Others were removed and filed in different series of records of the Adjutant General's Office. Removals frequently were documented by means of cross-references. Some of the cross-reference slips give the name of the writer, the file number, the date of transfer, and the name of the office to which the records were transferred. Others simply give the file number and the name of the office or person to whom the records were transferred. In cases where cross-references were missing but there were obvious clues as to where the letters were filed, the National Archives has added such information to the entries in the registers.

Sometimes the Adjutant General's Office inserted a cross-reference slip bearing one of several special stamps to denote the removal of records. (1) A stamp signifying "To JAG, June 6, 1894," was used to document the transfer to the Judge Advocate General's Office of papers relating to the acquisition or sale of military reservations or public lands under the jurisdiction of the War Department. (2) A stamp stating "Insane Soldier; Papers to Regimental Records Division for file with personal papers; G. W. Pratt," was placed on the cross-reference slip whenever papers were removed relating to insane enlisted men of volunteer units of the Union Army. Many of these papers are now with the Union Army compiled service records. (3) A stamp reading "With records 'Provost Fund' Archives Div., R. & P. O., Feb. 24, [19]04," was used to denote the transfer to the Records and Pension Office of records relating to the provost fund, which was composed of unexpended balances in the hands of provost marshals at the end of the Civil War and disbursed for various purposes under the order of the Secretary of War. The records that were transferred were added either to a series of letters received or to a series of vouchers relating to the fund. Both series form part of a group of records collectively known as the "Provost Fund Records."

Some of the letters of the Civil War period were selected for possible publication in The War of the Rebellion, A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington, 1880-1901). These letters bear the distinguishing circular stamp "War Records, 1861-1865, Copied." Wherever a letter so selected is not in the files, a cross-reference slip bearing one of the following notations will usually be found in its place: "Publication Files," "Rebellion Records," or "War Records Office." These references denote that the document in question was not returned by the War Records Office and may still be among its records.

In the same record group are other related records. Among them are Letters Sent by the Office of The Adjutant General (Main Series), 1800-90 (Microcopy 565); Letters Received by the Office of The Adjutant General, 1805-21 (Microcopy 566); and Letters Received by the Office of The Adjutant General (Main Series), 1822-60 (Microcopy 567).

Op. in Co. 24. 87. 15.



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4.10.56. and. 1866.

186. Guffelin / 29. 07. 1866
ENCL

Head Quarters Department of Florida
Tallahassee March 6th 1866

St. Col. Geo. L. Hartsuff,
A.A.G. Mil'y. Div. Gulf
New Orleans La.



Colonel:

Referring
to my endorsement of January 30th 1866
upon communication from Hon. Sec.
Dept of Alabama transmitted to me
by endorsement from A.A. Geo. Mil'y Div.
of the Gulf of Sept 21st 1865, relative to the
kidnapping of negroes off Florida to
Cuba; I have the honor to report that I
am of the opinion that no cargo of
negroes has been run off the coast,
even if the same has been attempted
and I can find no evidence of the
latter.

Lieut Hammond 34th U.S.C.T.
was sent along the coast of East Fla

in disguise to ascertain if possible
the truth of the rumors in that section
of the country. Copies of his reports,
together with letter of Col Sprague
7th Infantry Comdg Dist of East Florida
marked respectively A. B. & C. are en-
closed herewith.

A detective
(Myer) was sent to Western Florida
but he was discharged soon after, and
elicited no information. An officer
is ordered to Southern Florida, disguised
to investigate this matter along the coast;
his report will be duly forwarded.

Lieut Hammond reports, in
corroboration in addition to mittens re-
port that there is nothing at Indian
River to indicate any purpose on the
part of the owners or crew of the Steamer
Indian Queen, to kidnap negroes, except
the previous character of Titus the comdg
of the party. The Steamer is now a
perfect case. The negroes in that
section are few in number, and these

for an well man of their right
and disposed to maintain them if
assailed, they are also watchful
and if any Kidnapping is attempted
in that part of the country the facts
will soon be reported. Genl
Pierce of Mass. is now visiting Enterprise
for his health, and intends to remain
some months; Lieut Hammond made
known to him the object of his trip to
Indian River, and requested him while
at Enterprise to be watchful for any
indications of unlawful traffic
which he promised to do.

Lieut Hammond thinks that
the only suspicious circumstance
in that section is the presence of a
party of men at New Smyrna under
the leadership of one Kendrick an old
blockade runner, who has been there
about five months, with the ostensible
object of collecting cattle to be sent
to the Bahamas, for which purpose

5
his partner Mr Shackelford is now
at Nassau or Key West endeavoring
to obtain a light draught steamer.

The suspicion is entertained from
their character, that the real object
is smuggling. - This however cannot
be carried on without the knowledge
of the collector at Smyrna, a Mr. Long.

I am Colonel

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

J. S. Foster.

Major General to the
Commanding.

Q. in 6. 14. 1866

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Q. 12. 56. aus. 1866

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186. Gulf. liv. (alg. o.) 1866
ENCL

Jacksonville Florida

March 1st 1866

Lieut. St. M. A. Sams

A. A. G.

Sir



I have the honor to report that in accordance with the instructions of the Col. Comdg District. I proceeded to Sargy and took as accurate an observation of the operations in progress at that place as my limited stay would allow. my scrutiny did not succeed in detecting any irregularities - There are but few persons at that place or in the vicinity and these mostly people of small means mostly wreckers and fishermen. I returned to Enterprise where I hoped to get a favorable opportunity of going on to Indian River to look after the party headed by Titus. at Mellenville I succeeded in getting possession of such intelligence as determined me to proceed no farther. my informants were Mr Brantley of Mellenville and a Dr James these men are vouched for by Captain Adams Post Commandant at Mellenville and further recommended by their personal address and conduct. From Mr Brantley I learned that he had visited the camp of Titus where he found that persons engaged in preparing for market fish and oysters in hermetically sealed cans he stated that he said he saw a large lot of these cans and to be eight thousand. The Steamer Clyde was

at that time, hard aground in the sand and had been abandoned by Titus and his party, and was in charge of the agent of the underwriters who was making preparations to get her off.

The report of Dr James is some two weeks later he says that the attempt to raise the sunken Steamer proved abortive and that she was abandoned and pronounced a total loss on the discovery being made: that her hull was broken. The Dr also states that he visited the camp of Titus and his party, found only eleven persons engaged in putting up fish and oysters as stated by Brantley.

Dr James further states that Titus would soon leave with the entire party for the North as the warm weather would end the fishing season. The removal of Negroes in the direction of the suspected locality came to my notice though I made diligent inquiry after such matters. St Johns River and Salt Lake on Indian River with a haul over of seven miles seems to be the chief channel of intercourse and traffic between the Indian River country and the interior. Thinking that any further travel would not result in making other developments than those stated and that the crippled condition of the adventurers would for the present render the expedition harmless (even supposing a criminal purpose) I thought most advisable to return to Jacksonville.

I am Sir Most Respectfully

Lieut J. M. J. Sano

A. A. G.

Your Obedient Servant

(D) W. M. Hammond
Lieut. 34th Me.

a true Copy
Hamp. Parick
2^d Lt. Aid de Camp

6 *Am. C. 24. 1866*

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4. 10. 56. Aug. 1866

3
186. Gulf Dir. (A.G.O.) 1866
ENCL

Head Quarters District of East Florida

Jacksonville March 2^d 1866

Captain E. C. Woodruff

Actg. Asst. Asst General

Department of Florida

Tallahassee



Sir:

I have the honor to transmit two communications from Lieut D. McHammond of the 4th Regt Co Troops who was sent under special instructions to Smyrna and along the Eastern Coast of Florida. There are no indications that any attempt has been made or contemplated to abduct the colored citizens of Florida. The expedition of Colonel Titus to Indian River in the Steamer "Clyde" known as the Steamer "Indian River" has been a failure. The object was to put up fish, oysters, and turtles in tin cans and ship them to the New York Market. It is thirty three miles from Melbourne on the St John's to Smyrna. From the latter place there is a good road leading into the interior of Florida to Melbourne and Enterprise. The advantages are such and the sparseness of population through this section of country offers great inducements to smugglers and a safe resort for bad men, refugees from law and justice from all parts of the County. A military supervision in that quarter will be of service to the General Government as well as

to the State of Florida and Georgia X

So soon as I have Troops at my control I shall reestablish the Post at Mellenville if it meets the approbation of the Major General Commanding

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

(207) John T Sprague

Col. 7th U. S. Infy.

Conn.

A true copy
Henry Patrick
25th Infantry Camp

C print 1864. 1866.

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4. (2) 56. ans. 1866.

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186. Gulf of Mexico (Alf. O.) 1866
ENCL

McDonville Florida

February 18th 1866

Dear J. M. J. Samms

A. A. A. S.

Sir:



I have the honor to report in obedience to instructions from the Col. Comdg. I visited New Smyrna and its vicinity.

I found nothing there of a character to awaken suspicion that any of the people there were implicated in any scheme for abducting or kidnapping colored persons. - I could not find that any such man as Griffin lived at Smyrna. The same was not known to Mrs. Sheldon who had kept public house at Smyrna for many years men and boys are about creek on a large well-wooded below the Outlet. - Finding no facilities for prosecuting my journey toward the Indian River I returned to the St Johns at Enterprise with double object of commencing with Head-Quarters as directed, as well as secure the aid from Capt. Adams to enable me to reach Indian River by the way of St Johns River and Salt Lake arrived there I find the Captain returned to f - and his Company under orders to follow at an early period. I have not yet been able to secure the necessary facilities for making the trip which will be a tedious and difficult one. I have however a prospect of joining in an expedition with Gen.

Piercy of Bay, who is here for health and desires to take
a journey.

Two men have returned from Indian River in the past few
days from whom I learn much concerning the operations of Titus
and his party - The Steamer has broken into two so that she is a total
loss also a small tug that was on board the Steamer is lost not more
than ten of the party are now at the camp and these are engaged in
putting up and hermetically sealing fish and oysters for Prosser
and Co. of N. I. who were largely interested in the enterprise from the
first. The loss of Steamer and return of most of the operations
would so delay the proceedings that nothing could be developed at present
even supposing the scheme to have been successful. I am persuaded
that this place is more suitable for watching their operations than Sing-
ma or even the immediate vicinity of Indian River for the
reason that all travel to and from either of those places must pass
through here. The officer in command here would hardly fail to
detect any person engaged in smuggling away persons if his attention
was directed to the matter. It will be borne in mind that there are
few negroes in this section and almost none at all east of the St
Johns. from the nearest point on Indian River to where colored per-
sons are found in any numbers is about one hundred and fifty miles
and the route very difficult.

Mr Brantley of this place says that Titus will come away in about
six weeks by the way of St John's River and Jacksonville, Florida.

-stand Mr James to state the same. I shall request ~~the~~ Mr to call
on the Colonel at Jacksonville where he is ^{now} going

Yours Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

(S) D. M. Hammond

1st Lt U.S.C. I

a true copy
Henry Patrick
2 Stradedelcamp

237 Sept. 1866

F/w 1866 1866

Headquarters, Department of Florida
Tallahassee, Fla., June 27. 1866.

St. Maj. Gen. L. Thomas

Adjutant General U.S.A.

Washington D.C.

General.

I have the honor to report, that from information received, I am under the impression, that considerable smuggling is carried on, and also that kidnapping of negroes may be attempted, on the Gulf coast, south of here, especially between Tampa and St Marks. The present Revenue Cutter is stationed at Key West, and of not much service for this part of the coast.

I would respectfully suggest, that the Treasury Department place a small swift sailing yacht, of from 40 to 50 tons, as a guard boat under the direction of the Deputy Inspector, Mr. Jencks, who served in the Navy, and is acquainted with navigation and the coast.

Sain, Gent, Very Resp. Y. obdt. svt.

(Sgd.) J. G. Foster

Maj. Gen. Comdg. Dep't.

(Endorsement)

Headquarters, Military Division of the Gulf

New Orleans, La., July 2nd 1866.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant General of the Army.

I am not of opinion that any danger is to be apprehended
of the kidnapping of negroes from the Florida coast. So
far as relates to smuggling I am not prepared to give
an opinion.

(Sgd.) J. H. Sheridan
Major General U.S.A.
Commanding.

Official copies:

E. D. Townsend
Asst. Adjutant General.

F/W F 237 1866 237 Jan. Sept. 1866
F/W 1866 1866

W. D.

July 1866.

Hon. A. M. Culloch,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir,



I transmit herewith for your information a copy of a letter dated June 27, 1866, from Major General Foster, Commanding the Department of Florida, with copy of endorsement by Major General Sheridan, the Division Commander, in relation to smuggling on the coast of Florida.

I am, Sir, Very Resp^t
Yr^o Obed^t Serv^t

Secretary of war.

Alb. May 23. 1866.
295. Gulf. Nov. 1866
Case of Kidnapping &c.
in Florida.

FW G 186 1866
BRIEF.

April 27. 1866.
Maj. Genl. J. G. Foster Comdg.
Dept of Sta. forwards to
Mil. Div. Ad. G. rs. Copy of a
report of Capt. G. H. May-
nard 82^d U. S. C. T. of a trip
through Eastern and Southern
Florida made in compliance
with orders and for the
purpose of ascertaining the
facts with regard to Kid-
napping of Freedmen, &c.
Capt. Maynard reports de-
tails of his journey and the
information obtained, elic-
iting nothing definite, but
learning incidentally
that in Nov. 1865. freedmen
were shipped from Jackson-
ville. That Doombé (for-
merly Senator from Georgia,
now residing in Cuba),
has bought some of his for-
mer slaves, and among
them his old carriage.

driver, who is desirous to
return to the U. S.

That an attempt to ship
freedmen from Indian
River was made in Dec
1865. by one Mason a res-
ident of Upper Alabama.

That in Feby. 1866. one
Whittier shipped 19 freed-
men from Cedar Keys, &c.
Is of the opinion that there
has been no kidnapping
on the Western Coast of Fla.
and has been unable to
detect any smuggling.

Reports also that the
Indians are at Big Cypress
numbering about 150. War-
riors, having no knowl-
edge of any change in
their boundary lines and
looking to Govt. for pro-
tection.

Gov. Foster requests that en-
quiry be made as to whether
the Carriage driver of Sanford
Town is missing, and if
so that a demand for him
be made upon the Gov. Genl.
of Cuba. Also that a Rev.
Cutter be sent to New Smyr-
na. and Indian River by the
Treasury Department.

295 Gulf Dr. 1866
HEADQUARTERS,

Military Division of the Gulf,
New Orleans, La., *May 11 1866*

RESPECTFULLY FORWARDED TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

Dec 1865
for his information,
M. V. Smith and
File with 186 G. 1866
Major General
Commanding,
Off. 39th Reg. Aug. 1. 1866

1 Enclosure

Forwards communication from Maj' Gen' Geo. Foster commanding Department of Florida who transmits with remarks and recommendations thereon report of Geo. H. Maynard Capt. 82^d U. S. C. T. sent to investigate the alleged kidnapping of Freedmen and smuggling operations upon the coast of Florida.

(One Encl.)

With Dep't. 76th Reg. 14.

1 Brief

Received A. G. O. - *May 22 1866*

5846
8981
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Head Quarters, Dept of Florida
Tallahassee, Fla, April 27. 1866

Br Col. Geo. L. Hartouff
Asst Adjt Genl, Mil'y Div. of the Gulf
New Orleans, La
Colonel.



I herewith enclose a copy of the report of Capt. Maynard, of the 82^d U. S. C. T., a most excellent and discreet Officer, whom I sent secretly, in Citizens clothes, through the Southern part of the State to ascertain all the facts to be gained concerning the alledged kidnapping of negroes, smuggling, and the numbers & condition of the Indians. - His report may be relied on. - I doubt the report, that negroes were actually taken from Jacksonville to Havana, it looks like the old story of the str "Indian River", which touched at Jacksonville on her way to Indian River where she was wrecked in Decr 1865. - Her Captain endeavored to obtain hands in Jacksonville, but the desire becoming known to the Agent of the Freedmen's Bureau at that place, suspicion was excited and the Steamer left without the desired hands. - I believe there was a scheme formed to kidnap negroes on the East Coast, but that it failed. - I think the negroes in that section are too smart to be caught napping. -

I respectfully request that enquiry be made to ascertain, if the carriage driver of Senator Toombs of Georgia has been missed from the country since the war - and if so, that a proper demand for him may be made upon the Governor General of Cuba. -

I also request that the Treasury Dept may be asked to send a revenue cutter to New Smyrna & Indian River, to look after the smugglers, if any there are, as seems to be probable from the within report, and also the report of Lieut Hammond, transmitted with my letter of the 6th March 1866. -

I am, Colonel,
very respy & obedt
J. G. Foster
Maj Genl Comm^d Dept

Copy

Tallahassee, Fla.
April 25. 1866

Major Genl J. G. Foster
Comd'g Dept of Fla
Wash Tallahassee, Fla.

General.

In obedience to instructions, to proceed thro' Eastern and Southern Florida, for the purpose of ascertaining such facts regarding the kidnapping of freedmen and what steps were being taken to that effect, if any; to learn to what extent the Revenue of the U. S. was being defrauded at the sea port towns, along the Gulf Coast, and also to obtain such general information about the Indians located in Southern Florida, as would interest and benefit the Government, I have the honor to submit the following report: -

I left Tallahassee on the morning of March 24 '66, and proceeded by Rail Road to Lake City, on the 25th inst I started (mounted) on the road to Gainesville, at which place I arrived on the evening of March 27th, passing through Ellieville, and Newnanville; at Ellieville I stopped at the house of Robt Martin; who informed me that a stranger dined at his house the week previous, and made the following statement: That while he was in Atlanta, Ga, in February, 1866, he met a man, who was endeavoring to hire freedmen to work on plantations, either in Texas or Arkansas, but whose true object was to take them to some point on the Gulf coast and ship them to Cuba; that there were several men engaged in this transaction, and that he was offered one hundred (\$100) dollars in gold for every able bodied freedman he would

secure for shipment; he said that he was knowing to the fact of several being shipped from the port of Jacksonville, Fla, during the month of November, 1865, he further stated that he had seen a letter from Toombs, now residing in Cuba, but formerly U. S. Senator from Georgia, which stated that he had succeeded in buying some of his former slaves, and he was fortunate in securing his old Carriage driver.

I was unable to obtain the names of either the party giving this information, or the party engaged in the transaction, or any further clue, other than as above stated.

On the morning of March 29th I started on the road from Gainesville, passing through the towns of Alconga, Ocala and Adamsville, reaching Sumterville April 2nd. Here I learned that one Mr Mason, a resident of Upper Alabama, attempted to ship some freedmen from Indian River in Decr 1865, taking them there ostensibly for the purpose of engaging in the fishing business; the men being kept in idleness a long time; they became dissatisfied, and all went away. I was also informed of an attempt made by one Dr Hopkins, a resident of this State, to ship freedmen from New Smyrna in Decr '65, but as in the above instance the men became suspicious, that they were not to be fairly dealt with, and they all went away.

On the morning of April 4. I started on the road from Sumterville, passing through Brooksville & Tampa, reaching Manatee April 12th, intending to proceed to Charlotte Harbor and as far South as Fort Myers, but after making inquiries, I found it impracticable, to proceed by land. I being unable to procure a guide and owing to the thinly settled section of the country, through which I would be obliged to pass, and the indistinct trail to be followed,

it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible for one unacquainted, of reaching their destination. - In view of the above circumstances I concluded to return to Tallahassee. - Starting from Manatee on the morning of April 17th, reaching Tampa the same day, I chartered here a small sloop to take me to Cedar Keys, at which place I arrived April 22^d, touching on my passage at the following named points: Clear Water Harbor, Bay Port, Chaschowitzka River, Homosassa, and Crystal River. - At Cedar Keys I learned, that in February last past, a Mr Whittier shipped from that Port nineteen freedmen to Sarasota Bay, to work on his plantation there, and from information since received, which I deem reliable, they were actually sent to the place above mentioned, and are now at work on Mr Whittier's plantation at Cedar Keys. - I learned from Mr S. M. Williamson, of the firm of Stokes, Williamson & Co. Richmond, Va., that a friend of his, but recently arrived from Havana, mentioned the fact of seeing in Havana the carriage driver belonging to Toombs (formerly U. S. Senator from Georgia) - and that this slave expressed his desire to return to the United States.

Starting from Cedar Keys on the morning of the 23rd inst. I proceeded by Railroad to Tallahassee, where I arrived on the evening of the 24th inst.

During the time I have been absent from this Port I have visited all important towns & settlements, both in the interior & on the western coasts. I have found the people peacefully disposed and willing to comply with all U. S. laws, and anxious that the State may soon resume its former relation with the U. S. Govt. - I have been unable to learn of any unlawful or organized bodies of men, and

295. Halsey, J. R. C.
ENCL
FW G-186 1866

believe none exists. They all appear to be attending to their own personal concerns, and are disposed to treat the Freedmen well and to deal fairly with them in all business transactions. - I am of the opinion that no freedmen have been kidnapped and shipped from the western Coast of Fla., and there are no indications of any future movements to that effect. -

I also have been unable to detect that smuggling was carried on along the coast. - X

As regards the Indians, they have not visited Fort Myers since the withdrawal of the troops from that Post, no one having lived there since that time. They are located at the Big Cypress, and number about 150 Warriors, their only trading post now is at the mouth of the Miami River; they have no knowledge of any change having been made in their boundary line, and look to none other than the U. S. Govt for protection.

Very respectfully
Your most obedt servt
(Signed) Geo. A. Maynard
Capt 82d USCT

A true copy
Chas Mundee
B. B. Knight & Co

529 J 1866
Treasury Department

198

July 27 1866

Adverse receipt of War Dept. letter
file with 186 G. 1866
inclosing communication from
Wm. Lusk Foster, Comdr. the Dept.
of Florida with copy of endorse-
ment of Wm. Lusk Sheridan, in
relation to smuggling and kid-
napping of negroes, and says
it is not deemed expedient to
detail a small cutter yacht to
act as a guard boat, as recom-
mended by Lusk Foster.

Depts. 764 B.D. 16 July 28. 1866.

Adj. Genl. (Lusk)

11

Treasury Department.

July 27th 1866

Sir:



I have the honor to acknowledge
your letter enclosing communication
from Major General Foster commanding
the Department of Florida, with copy
of endorsement by Major Genl Sherman
in relation to smuggling on the Coast of
Florida, also regarding the kidnapping
of negroes, - with a suggestion from
Genl F. That this Department plan a
"small swift sailing yacht of from 40
"to 50 tons as a guard boat under the

"direction of the Deputy Inspector Mr. Sinks,
in 8th.:- and in reply thereto, I would
observe that as it is learned from various
authentic sources, as well from Commanders
in the Revenue Service on that Coast, as
by the opinion of Genl. Thomson expressed
on the letter transmitted, that no danger
exists, or is to be apprehended with reference
to the kidnapping of negroes from the
Florida Coast, - and as the Depart.
ment has adopted what is considered
ample precautionary measures to prevent
smuggling by stationing cutters at the
proper points, also Revenue boats at
St Marks, Indian River Tampa Bay

and other prominent points all along
the coast, — it is not deemed expedient
by this Department to respond to the
recommendation for detailing a small
cutter yacht to act as a gunboat
under the direction of Mr. Inks.

I am very respectfully
Yours truly

Secretary of the Navy

Hon. E. M. Stanton

Secretary of War.